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University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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February 15, 1991

UM CREATIVE-WRITING STUDENT WINS MERRIAM-FRONTIER AWARD

MISSOULA --

Evan Williams, a University of Montana graduate student in creative writing and English literature, has won UM's 1990-91 Merriam-Frontier Award for his manuscript, "The Woman Who was Wakan and Other Stories."

Another collection of short stories, by graduate student Karyn Sandstrom, was awarded honorable mention in the eighth annual competition. Sandstrom's is the first honorable mention ever awarded in the competition, said UM English Professor Lois Welch, awards committee chair.

Evans grew up in Portland, Ore. and in 1986 earned a bachelor's degree in history from Colorado College in Colorado Springs. He is expected to earn his UM master of fine arts degree this spring. He worked as an intern in the museum at Glacier National Park in 1987-88 and later worked as museum curator at Custer Battlefield National Monument.

Evans' award includes \$250, publication of his winning manuscript and distribution of the manuscript around the Northwest. Copies will be available in local bookstores.

Sandstrom, of Canton, Ohio, earned a bachelor's degree in rhetoric from the University of Oregon and recently completed a UM

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master's in environmental studies and English as a second language. She is now working on a master's in linguistics.

H.G. Merriam, a longtime UM English professor who died in 1980, established the award to recognize the work of outstanding writers enrolled at UM. He edited the quarterly journal Frontier from 1920 to 1939 and helped launch the careers of Wallace Stegner and other now-famous writers.

This year's entries were judged by journalism Associate Professor Sharon Barrett, art Associate Professor Marilyn Bruya and foreign languages and literatures Professor Stan Rose.

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LW/kr
Local and hometowns
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